



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Naran S. Ivanchukov, age 67, of McLean, Virginia, was sentenced to 44 months in prison for his role in a large-scale immigration fraud ring. Ivanchukov, who had pled guilty to conspiring to commit immigration fraud and conspiring to defraud the United States in the collection of income taxes, was the owner of Global Recruitment and Immigration Services, Inc., a company in Falls Church, Virginia. Global assisted aliens in obtaining "green cards" through an employment-based visa program that permits an employer to sponsor an alien for an employment position in the United States if the employer has been unable to find a qualified U.S. worker to fill the position. Ivanchukov and his co-conspirators charged the aliens as much as \$120,000 to pursue their visa applications, and had total revenues of more than \$4.5 million during the conspiracy. As part of the sentence, Ivanchukov will pay a \$3.2 million money judgment, and forfeit his residence, various banking and brokerage accounts, and thousands of dollars in jewelry.

In addition to Ivanchukov, two others who had pled guilty to related charges, Michelle I. Pappadakis, age 31, of Sterling, Virginia, Global's vice president, and Bemba Balsirow, age 48, of Howell, New Jersey, were sentenced. Pappadakis received a sentence of 18 months in prison for her role in structuring Global's bank deposits to avoid IRS reporting requirements. Balsirow was sentenced to 15 months in prison for conspiracy to commit immigration fraud. To date, nine defendants, including Global's general counsel, Rex B. Wingerter, have been convicted of charges stemming from this scheme.

Ivanchukov admitted that he and his co-conspirators submitted more than 1,000 fraudulent immigration documents containing forged signatures, false claims concerning the recruitment of U.S. workers, or misrepresentations concerning the job that was supposedly available. Others who have pleaded guilty in related cases have admitted that Ivanchukov paid them to act as sponsoring employers of aliens, although they had no intention of hiring the aliens as claimed and made no legitimate effort to recruit US workers. Global conducted much of its business in cash, and Ivanchukov admitted that Global structured its cash deposits at its bank in amounts less than \$10,000 to avoid triggering a currency transaction report by the bank. Ivanchukov and Global also failed to file a federal income tax return and failed to report any income during the four-year conspiracy, although Global had revenues of \$3.2 million.

Mr. McNulty stated: "The sentences in this case reflect the consequences that await those who compromise the integrity of our employment-based visa program. The rights of U.S.

workers and law-abiding immigrants must not be thwarted by the few who seek to profit from such schemes.”

Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, US Department of Labor said: "This sentencing sends a clear message that unscrupulous entities who file false documentation for monetary gain will be held accountable. My office will continue to work with other law enforcement agencies to aggressively detect and prevent fraud in the foreign labor certification program."

The case was investigated by a team led by special agents from the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General, with the assistance of agents from the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State's Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Homeland Security. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James P. Gillis, John T. Morton, and Michael E. Rich.

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